



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO IL 60604-3580

MAR 15 2001

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

W-15J

Susan Sylvester, Administrator
Division of Water
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

**Re: "Report to the Natural Resources Board about Sewer Overflows with Special
Emphasis on the Milwaukee Area"**

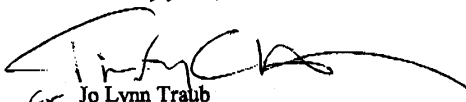
Dear Ms. Sylvester:

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) draft "Report to the Natural Resources Board about Sewer Overflows with Special Emphasis on the Milwaukee Area." We commend WDNR for the work you have done to address sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) problems across the State, and in particular in the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sanitary District service area. We are especially encouraged that WDNR has taken a proactive approach to identifying and reporting SSOs and establishing permit requirements for tributary communities. We are also encouraged that you are committing to take further positive actions in the area of capacity, management, operation and maintenance.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of reviewing this report in detail, and we intend to provide you with specific comments in the near future. In particular, our review will carefully consider whether state rules conform to the prohibition of SSOs and bypass under federal regulation, and offer suggestions to reconcile differences, if necessary.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review the draft report. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Filippini, of my staff, at 312/886-6743.

Sincerely yours,


for Jo Lynn Traub
Director, Water Division

cc: Jay Hochmuth, WDNR
Mike Cook, USEPA